

SUNRISE CHURCH | FEBRUARY 2026

# The Beacon



## Valentine's Breakfast

Join the Men's Breakfast Group on February 10th at 9 am for this special Valentine's event, hosted in honor of the women in your life! To attend, add your name to the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

## *The Goodness of the Lord*

*<sup>5</sup>For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, <sup>7</sup>and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love.* (II Peter 1:5-7)

Occasionally, I look at my *Pastor's Desk* articles from previous years for the same month. Four years ago, the theme was *The Goodness of the Lord*. This title comes from Psalm 27:13 ~ *I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living*. There are three hopeful assumptions in this verse: 1) *I shall see*, 2) *the goodness of the Lord*, and, 3) *in the land of the living*. The hope is grounded on a confidence in God's presence in our world and lives.

The passage from II Peter spells out how we can choose to put God's ever-present goodness into practice. Sadly, there are many distractions that interfere with our embracing God's goodness. I am struck by the popularity of true crime stories on TV. The shows based on these stories have multiplied. I'm not completely sure why people are drawn to them. Maybe it's their depiction of the sad, but hard reality of life. It's certainly true that we all have a tendency to notice and comment on what is wrong in the world.

At the Men's Prayer Breakfast four years ago, I suggested the men try looking for the good they encounter each day. Instead of focusing on what is bad, broken, and hurtful, why not see God's goodness that is all around us. A week later, one of the men commented on how surprisingly hard it is to "flip that switch." Sadly, it seems almost second nature to look for the problems instead of seeing the good. When we celebrate the presence of God's goodness in our lives and the lives of others, we become transformed. The more we see God's goodness, the more we become representatives of that goodness.

The verses from II Peter suggest steps that lead us to embracing *agape* love. *<sup>5</sup>For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness*. What a remarkable statement! And yet, it is only the first step on the journey. II Peter leads us through appreciating this goodness (knowledge) to exercising self-control that leads us to endurance (read: persevering) that brings godliness. It is godliness that ushers in mutual affection (in Greek: *philia* ~ a love among friends that is as strong as family bonds), which ultimately leads to *agape* love – a self-giving, self-sacrificing love.

The challenge for us is the daily struggle to embrace the good. There is a Native American parable that captures this reality in simple, striking terms:

*Once upon a time, a Native American elder was telling his grandson a story of two wolves that live in each one of us and wage a daily struggle for dominance in our lives.*

*One wolf is filled with love, joy, hope, peace, gratitude, optimism, generosity, understanding, humility, kindness, truth, faith, and compassion.*

*The other is a reflection of bitterness, envy, anger, sorrow, guilt, greed, arrogance, self-pity, inferiority, lies, ego, selfishness, and judgment.*

*Their struggle is constant, their determination to win unwavering.*

*"So, which wolf wins?" asked the grandson.*

*The grandfather responded, "The one you feed."*

In God's grace,



# Sunrise Columbarium & Memorial Garden



The Columbarium and Memorial Garden is a sacred place for the inurnment of loved ones, as well as a place for prayer, meditation, or to sit and remember your loved ones surrounded by the peace and beauty of the garden and the marsh. Niches may be purchased for yourself as well as your family members. Decisions about purchasing a niche may be made in advance, at the time of need or after cremation. Regardless of your circumstances, the Columbarium Committee is available to help you.



Memorial plaques may be purchased for those who are inurned or interred elsewhere. The plaques are placed on the Memorial Wall of the columbarium (see photo).

Information is available on the church website at [www.oursunrise.org](http://www.oursunrise.org) under Resources, at the church office, or by contacting Ida Havelka, Columbarium Committee Chair, at [ihavelka@comcast.net](mailto:ihavelka@comcast.net), 843-412-1884.

Memorial gifts and donations may be made to the Columbarium Fund to support the perpetual care of the columbarium and garden.

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## Chili Potluck • February 8th

Signup in the Fellowship Hall to bring either soup, chili, or cornbread on February 8th following the 10am Worship Service. Prizes will be awarded for the top three chilis!

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## Souper Bowl of Caring • February 8th

Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-inspired movement working across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. Again this year, we will be donating to the College of Charleston Cougar Food Pantry which is a student led organization created to combat food insecurity while helping to unify the College of Charleston campus through collaboration and student involvement. You may bring in canned or dry goods and drop them off in the bin in the Narthex or outside the Narthex doors. If you would like to make a monetary donation, we encourage you to donate directly at <https://give.cofc.edu/donate>. Thank you!

# Welcome New Members!

Sunrise would like to welcome its newest members to our church family: Joy Parker, Laurie & Bob Plumb, Nancy & Brent Havens. Please be sure to welcome them when you see them around.

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## Sunrise 2026 Elders

Ralph Byers (Missions Elder)

Stephanie Kimker (Worship & Music Elder)

Michelle Smith (Pastoral Care Elder ~ Stephen Ministry Leader)

Helen Panitt (Pastoral Care Elder ~ Congregational Care)

Neila Cary (Fellowship Elder)

Lamar Graves (Building & Grounds Elder)

Ray Dickinson (Clerk of Session, Elder)

Cal McRae (Finance Elder)

Mark Plecity (Personnel Elder)

Lauren Nelson (Welcoming and Assimilation Elder)

Thank you to David Brown and Shauna Nelson who rotated off the session.

Our newest Elders, Ralph Byers (Missions) and Lauren Nelson (Welcoming & Assimilation) were commissioned Sunday, January 11th. (photo on the right)



# February at Sunrise

**Growing Faith's** next meeting will be on February 15th at 9 am in the Middle School Youth Group room. Any older elementary & middle school students (4th - 8th grade) are invited to join us!

**The Adult Sunday School** class will continue with its Bible study that connects the many familiar stories and people of the Bible. The class meets weekly in the library at 9:00 a.m. There is a video conference option via google meet. ~ Vance

**Middle School Youth Group** (6th-8th grade) meets Sundays at 10:30 am and will also meet February 8th and 22nd from 4:30 - 6:30 pm at Sunrise Church. This month's meetings will include dinner, games, and a group devotional. If you have any questions, please reach out to Breezy at [breezy@oursunrise.org](mailto:breezy@oursunrise.org) or (843) 860-9581.

**On Friday evenings at Sunrise Church college-age young people** are gathering at 7:00 p.m. for Bible study, a meal, and then finishing the evening with a game like Uno. This youth group is a continuation of our Senior High group from last year. It's under the leadership of Harrison & Ritchie.

**The Women's Morning Bible Study** will meet on February 10th at 10 am in the library. This Bible study connects the many familiar stories and people of the Bible. New members are always welcome. ~ Vance

**The Women's Evening Bible Study** will meet February 17th at 5:30 pm using the book *Esther: Daring Faith for Such a Time as This*. In this 7-session study, author Kelly Minter invites you into the daring faith modeled by Esther and her cousin Mordecai—a faith developed over time, rooted in the goodness of God, lived out through extraordinary circumstances, and used to change the world. New members are always welcome. ~ Caroline

**Cents-Ability** is collected the 2nd Sunday of each month. Thanks to you, donations have been made to Neighbors Together, East Cooper Meals on Wheels, and East Cooper Community Outreach. Please continue to give at least two cents per person per meal in the bowl in the Narthex. This simple act is an expression of thanksgiving for what we have received.

Start off your Tuesdays with the **Jerry Dillon Men's Prayer Breakfast** at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy great food, fellowship, and a devotion.

# February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Communion & Family Service 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth	2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	10am - AA Meeting 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 6:30pm - Veritas Movie Night 7pm - College Youth Group		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cents-Ability 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth	2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	9am - Men's Valentine Breakfast 10am - Women's Morning Bible 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 9am - Growing Faith - Family 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth 11am - Columbarium Meeting	President's Day 2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	8am - Men's Breakfast 5:30pm - Women's Evening Bible 10am - AA Meeting	5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Battery Gadsden - Sanctuary 5:30pm - Ash Wednesday "Soup & 6:30pm - Choir Practice	10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth 4:30pm - MS Youth Group	2:45pm - Music Lessons (Choir 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singers	8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice	5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall 7pm - College Youth Group		

# February Birthdays

2 Caroline Champagne  
4 Barbara Powell  
6 Maddie Russell  
6 Annie Hakimi  
7 Colm Dykes  
9 Kylie Ruddock  
10 Zinnia Tully  
10 René Severns  
11 Russ Penley  
11 Maggie White  
13 Gary Hawkins  
15 John Eppelsheimer

16 Sharon Floyd  
20 Bill Schupp  
22 Jane Hooper  
23 Libby Kilpatrick  
23 Van Nettles  
24 Leo Hurst  
24 Patrick Smith  
25 Logan Nelson  
25 Jake Cannon  
25 Pam Rayburn  
26 Becca Hodges  
26 Dennis Frazier

**Church Office Hours:**  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

Phone: (843) 883-3888  
[www.oursunrise.org](http://www.oursunrise.org)

## Sunrise Staff

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